

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION SS-25

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P 150745Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6015

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1906

EXDIS

EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS KS

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR HAHM'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. IN COURSE MARCH 13 CONVERSATION AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR PARK SANG-YONG READNG FROM TELEGRAM HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON TOLD POLCOUNS THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB HAD CALLED IN ROK AMBASSADOR HAHM TO EXPRESS CONCERN REGARDING ARREST KIM TAE CHUNG AND OTHERS IN CONNECTION MARCH 1 INDEPENDENCE DAY DECLARATION AT MYONGDONG CATHEDRAL. ACCORDING TO PARK, MR. HABIB NOTED STATEMENT BY SENATORS KENNEDY AND CRANSTON AND CRITICAL NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL MARCH 12. PARK THEN WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO REVIEW REMARKS AMBASSADOR HAHM REPORTED HE MADE TO MR. HABIB IN DEFENSE GOVERNMENTS ACTION. MAIN POINTS HAHM'S REMARKS ACCORDING PARK WERE ROKG'S SENSITIVITY TO OVERSEAS OPINION, DISTINCTIONS MADE BY ROKG BETWEEN VARIOUS FIGURES INVOLVED MYONGDONG AFFAIR, AND FACT ROKG CAREFULLY ABIDING BY KOREAN LAWS.

2. PARK ALSO REPORTED CALL BY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVES ON AMBASSADOR HAHM MARCH 11 DESCRIBING CONVERSATION AS BEING FAR MORE CORDIAL THAN THE AMBASSADOR HAD EXPECTED. PARK AGAIN SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN DESCRIBING THIS MEETING BY REVIEWING POINTS THAT HAHM HAD MADE TO NCC REPS.
SNEIDER

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